# NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION

# MEDIA KIT

The mission of the National Stuttering Association is to bring hope and empowerment to children and adults who stutter, their families, and speech professionals through support, education, advocacy, research, and outreach. As the first organization in the United States to help people speak out – fluently or not – the National Stuttering Association connects people who stutter, their families, speech-language professionals, and stuttering researchers all over the country.

Our unique approach towards empowering people who stutter – and not trying to "fix" them – through education, resources, and support has been successful for thousands of people who stutter nationwide.

#### **SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS**

The NSA can connect you with subject matter experts on the following topics and more:

- Signs and Symptoms of Stuttering
- Causes of Stuttering
- Stuttering and Mental Health
- Scientific Developments in Stuttering Research
- Myths about Stuttering
- Speech-Language Pathology

#### **CONTACT US**

For media inquiries and requests for subject matter experts:

Sarah Armstrong (224) 305-2701 sarah@skaassociates.com

westutter.org





@westutter



@westutter



@westutter



@NSAsitevideos

## WHAT WE DO

#### **OUTREACH, EDUCATION & ADVOCACY**

The NSA provides support and resources to the stuttering community, instilling the sense of self-worth so often missing in the lives of those who stutter. With more than 200 local support groups serving our thousands of members nationwide, the NSA also offers a proven outlet to build self-confidence, practice speaking and therapeutic techniques in a safe environment, and explore new ways to cope with stuttering through mutual aid and support in a listener-friendly environment. In addition, for the past 36 years, the NSA has hosted an annual conference for children, teens, and adults who stutter, as well as their family members and speech professionals. The conference serves as an opportunity for people who stutter to meet one another and develop coping strategies for their stuttering, as well as for family members to learn more about their children and siblings who stutter.

Through its newsletter, *Letting Go*, and engaging social media presence, the NSA provides information about stuttering, increases public awareness, advocates for better understanding of the disorder and the needs of people who stutter, and serves as a national referral organization for speech therapy resources.

#### **RESEARCH**

Through its research partnerships, the NSA aims to meet the needs of today while searching from the answers of tomorrow. The NSA aims to search for innovations in stuttering treatment while continuing to refine the speech therapies that are in use today. Not only does the NSA host a research symposium for speech professionals in conjunction with its popular member-driven annual conference, but it also provides expert review of speech therapies, coordinates research among various professional and educational institutions, and funds seed grants for new research opportunities.

#### PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

The NSA welcomes speech-language pathologists and other professionals who work with people who stutter. We offer continuing education workshops throughout the year and at our Annual Conference and Research Symposium. The NSA is an important resource for speech professionals because we connect our expertise in stuttering support and the insight of people who stutter with the latest findings of researchers and the best practices of leading clinicians.

# WHAT IS STUTTERING?

- Stuttering is a communication disorder involving disruptions, or "disfluencies," in a person's speech.
- 1 out of every 100 adults stutters.
- 5% of all children go through a stuttering phase, but most grow out of it before reaching adolescence.
- The exact cause of stuttering is unknown but may include genetic, physiological and environmental factors.

- There is no cure for stuttering.
- Stuttering affects men four times more than it affects women.
- The stigma of stuttering is profound, affecting relationships, employment and general life situations.
- The accepted term for those who stutter is "person who stutters".

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# IF You stutter, you are not alone.

#### TIPS FOR BEING A GOOD LISTENER TO A PERSON WHO STUTTERS

STUTTERING CAN BE CONFUSING. When you are talking with someone who is having trouble producing sounds or words smoothly, he or she may be stuttering. Stuttering can cause listeners to feel uncertain or anxious about how to respond. If you keep the following suggestions in mind, talking with a person who stutters can become more comfortable for you—and for the person who stutters.

**STUTTERING IS NOT A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM.** When a speaker appears to be nervous, keep in mind that the nervousness is a result of embarrassment about their stuttering, rather than a cause of it. The presence of stuttering does not indicate diminished cognitive ability.

**PEOPLE STUTTER IN DIFFERENT WAYS.** Some repeat syllables and others stretch out sounds or "block" while speaking. There are as many different ways to stutter as there are people who stutter.

**BE PATIENT.** Most people who stutter strongly prefer to speak for themselves. You may be tempted to finish a person's sentences or "fill in" words, but this does not help. It is okay to stutter! Don't give advice such as: "slow down," "take a breath," or "relax." Maintain eye contact, listen carefully, and wait patiently until the person is finished speaking.

# THE NSA IN THE NEWS

#### **NEWSWEEK**

#### NEWS

After Sarah Sanders Taunts Joe Biden for Imitating Stutter, National Stuttering Association Says It's 'Never Acceptable to Mock' Speech



#### **WASHINGTON POST**

Starbucks fires barista for mocking stuttering customer with drink label





#### **CHICAGO SUN-TIMES**

#### World's largest gathering of stutterers coming July 4th





#### **ASSOCIATIONS NOW**

### MONEY & BUSINESS **HOW BIDEN'S STUTTER OFFERED** THIS GROUP A MESSAGING

**OPPORTUNITY** 



#### **PGA TOUR**



#### **LOS ANGELES TIMES**

Joe Biden's childhood struggle with a stutter: How he overcame it and how it shaped him

